

REMARKS

Claims 13-33 are pending in the application. Claims 20 and 21 have been amended. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 13-19.

Applicants further gratefully acknowledge the allowability of claims 21-24 and 26-33 if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, applicants have amended claim 21 to be in independent form and hence allowable. Claims 22-24 and 26-33 depend, directly or indirectly from claim 21, and hence are also now submitted to be in condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, independent claim 20 and dependent claim 25 were rejected as being anticipated by Mori (US 5,390,485). In view of the clarifying amendment made to claim 20 in the following remarks, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants have clarified the spinning arrangement of claim 21 by noting that the drafting unit feeds a staple fiber strand and that the deflecting device temporarily deflects a complete staple fiber strand. The vacuum chamber that is included in the deflecting device has its low pressure temporarily increased for deflecting the complete fiber strand (see, for example, paragraphs [0008] and [0040]).

In contrast, Mori does not disclose applicants' claimed deflecting device for temporarily deflecting a complete staple fiber strand, wherein a vacuum chamber included in the deflecting device has its low pressure temporarily increased for deflecting the complete fiber strand. In that regard, applicants provide a deflecting device within the context of the present invention that temporarily deflects the complete fiber strand. The alleged "deflecting device" of Mori is not a deflecting device within the meaning of the present invention, but rather operates all of the time during the spinning operation (not temporarily). Indeed, if Mori's spinning apparatus would deflect the complete fiber strand as recited in applicants' claim 20, then the spinning process of Mori would become impossible.

What Mori does provide is a collecting device, which has the object to reduce a loss of fiber material by returning it to the front roller of the drafting unit. This is not a deflecting device that temporarily deflects a complete fiber strand.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit amended claim 20 is patentable over Mori. Further, claim 25 depends from claim 20 and should also be found patentable.

For the foregoing reasons, applicants respectfully submit claims 13-33 are now all in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is solicited.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #010971.57431US).

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Respectfully submitted,

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